

Great Basin Cache

The Great Basin Cache is one of eleven National Incident Support Caches serving assigned geographic areas. As a geographic area cache it is the primary source of supply for all wildland firefighting agencies in Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho and western Wyoming.

The Great Basin Cache is the largest Federal cache in the system totaling about 80,000 square feet of space with an inventory of about \$17 million.

In addition to firefighting supplies and equipment the cache stores and distributes all standardized firefighter training materials and fire publications for the entire nation and the entire world.



The Great Basin Cache can provide enough food, shelter, and water to a tent-city of 10,000 personnel in less than 24 hours.

The ordering system is designed to maintain an inventory to accommodate the needs for all areas.

- Supplies and equipment from one cache may be moved to help bolster dwindling supplies in another.
- This system, known as the National Fire Equipment System, is a cost effective way to share resources among agencies and across the United States. It has been credited with saving as much as \$26 million in one year by reducing the need to purchase new equipment and supplies.

Every item is tracked from the initial order to its return to the inventory. The \$17 million inventory can turn over up to three or four times each year.

Once an order is placed, it is entered into a national computerized database as a debit. The ordering unit is then fiscally responsible for the item.

The cache staff is tasked with finding the most expedient and cost effective way to ship the items to their destinations, which can range from Federal Express to a tractor trailer.



The \$17 million inventory in the Great Basin Cache can turn over up to three times during a busy fire season.

When the item is returned a credit is entered into the computer system.

A return rate of about 85 percent is achieved for all items issued. Seasonal and regular employees at the return warehouse refurbish, repair, and restock equipment and supplies.

